



# NEWSLETTER



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter! It has been another busy yet rewarding week at Argyle. On Wednesday, we welcomed our Camden Professional Partner to observe teaching and learning in maths. She provided very positive feedback about the children's attitude toward learning. She noted, and was especially impressed by, how confidently our pupils in KS1 use key mathematical language. We're incredibly proud of them for embodying the Argyle Code and Argyle Values. They truly showed that we: **Love learning, embrace challenges, believe in our ability to succeed, and always have a go.**

At home, we encourage you to keep playing the maths games we shared with you last term. These games are an excellent way to help your child build number fluency and strengthen their knowledge of number facts.

*B. Mukasa*  
Acting Head Teacher

# YEAR 6



On Tuesday Year 6 went to Bletchley Park to find out more about their history topic on World War Two. Bletchley Park was where codebreakers worked in secret during the war. In that period both the allies and Axis powers sent coded messages in case they fell into enemy hands. The Germans used an Enigma machine (which looks a little like a complicated typewriter) to encrypt their military reports. There were an incredible 103,325,660,587,134,000,000 ways of setting up the machine to create codes. The people at Bletchley Park, led by Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman, created a machine called the 'Bombe' which sped up the process of decoding the messages. Their work helped to shorten the war.

It was a great day. The children took part in a workshop in which they had to work together to decode a message using different ciphers, including Morse Code. They also had the rare opportunity to press a key on an Enigma machine. The top secret work at Bletchley began in the mansion, a grand building which was once a home. It then expanded into huts and the children had the chance to explore both.

We are grateful to Maitland Chambers whose generosity made the whole trip - including the train journey - possible.



“It was fun because we got to learn how people worked secretly with messages written in Morse code and we used an Engima machine.”  
Yusra.

“Bletchley Park was fascinating because we learnt about historical people and the huts were set up as if they were still working there.”  
Yakub

“When we went into the mansion, we saw the library which had books on the shelves, desks and old telephones and typewriters and an old radio. It felt like we had gone back in the past.” Retaj



# Year 2

This week, our Year 2 pupils have been busy exploring and learning across a variety of subjects.

In Science, they stepped into the role of super scientists, sorting animals into different classifications. This activity has sparked curiosity and built a strong foundation for our exciting investigation planned for next week. We can't wait to see their budding scientific skills in action!

In Geography, the children demonstrated their map-reading and problem-solving abilities by finding the best routes from Argyle to various local landmarks. This hands-on activity not only helped them understand our local area but also prepared them for our first geography trip this term—stay tuned for more details!

Maths lessons have been all about money. With the world shifting away from cash transactions, this has been an essential and practical skill for the children to master. They've spent time identifying coins, counting money, and solving problems involving change. We'll be continuing this focus next week to ensure they're confident with their newfound skills.

It's been a fantastic week of learning, and we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and progress. Thank you for your ongoing support—here's to another exciting week ahead!



# YEAR 1

## Maths

This week, the children consolidated their understanding of numbers between 11 and 19. They practiced recognising that each number is composed of one ten and a certain number of ones. For example, the number fourteen has one ten and four ones. The children confidently explained their reasoning, with Adiyar saying, "It has one ten and one one," when asked how he knew the number was 11.

The children enjoyed hands-on activities, using dice, number cards, tens frames, dienes, and part-whole models to represent numbers.

## Literacy

In Literacy, the children delved further into the story 'The Papaya That Spoke!' They retold the story with actions, building their comprehension and expression, and worked together to unscramble sentences from the story to ensure they made sense. This fun and collaborative activity not only developed their storytelling skills but also strengthened their sentence structure knowledge.

## Art and Science

Our exploration of the papaya extended into both Art and Science this week. The children engaged their senses to explore the fruit—touching, smelling, observing, and tasting. They took notes about its texture, colour, and flavour before writing descriptive paragraphs. Some even used double adjectives and similes to bring their descriptions to life!

- **Ahmed:** "The papaya looks greenish-yellow and tastes sweet like strawberries."
- **Myrah:** "The round, big papaya is slimy and sweet."

In Art, the children used their observational skills to sketch the papaya. They began with pencil sketches, then experimented with continuous line drawing, and finally added watercolor washes to create texture. Using fine brushes, they explored how water affected their pen lines, creating beautiful effects.

- **Amaya:** "I'm doing wobbly lines."
- **Luqman:** "I'm using the side of my brush."
- **Nuzhat:** When adding water to her brown paint—"It's like a hot chocolate."
- **Inaaya:** "Wow, look at the swirly smudging water on the pen lines."
- **Isabelle:** "The seeds are black shiny dots."

The children also experimented with mixing water to create different hues and learned how to gently flick paint to create splatter effects.





# RECEPTION



This week in Reception, we have had an exciting time exploring storytelling and numbers!

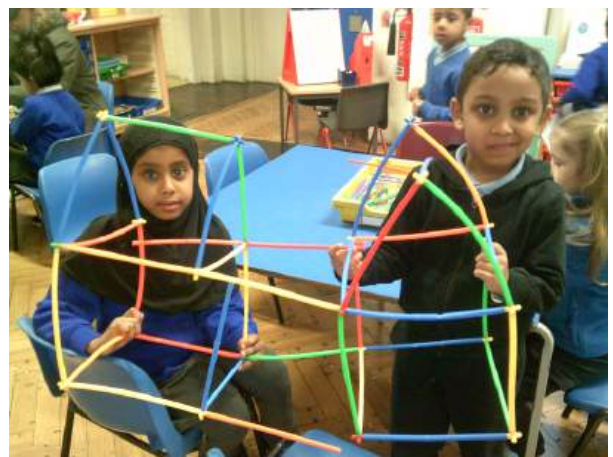
In Literacy, the children continued to enjoy the classic tale of 'The Gingerbread Man'. Building on this, we introduced the story of 'The Runaway Chapati', and the children eagerly compared the two texts, identifying similarities and differences. They also shared their preferences for the stories and practiced their creativity by writing their own imaginative versions. It's wonderful to see their storytelling skills developing!

In Maths, we have been focusing on partitioning the number 3 and discovering different ways to group it. The children had great fun creating their own number stories, sparking their imaginations while reinforcing their understanding.

One delightful example was:

"Once upon a time, there were 3 apples, and a dinosaur ate 2 apples. Only one apple was left."

We encourage you to ask your child about their own number stories or to create some together at home!



# NURSERY



We had a brilliant time in nursery this week, continuing with our topic of transport and reading the book, 'Naughty Bus', by Jan & Jerry Oke. We played 'What's in the box?' to learn about items in the story and thought about where else we'd seen things like bannisters, baked beans, a pond and grass. Micha said, "I don't have a pond in my garden. I just have a puddle!". We made a story map of 'Naughty Bus' together, and then we acted it out, with great drama. We learnt all about ground transport by studying our theme words of the week: driver', 'bus', 'passenger', 'engine' and 'wheel', and found out what ground vehicles are used for and how they move around. This week we also started off our stay & play sessions again. Parents and children worked together to create their own naughty buses and 'picked up' some of the passengers that the original bus had, very naughtily, left behind. We then did rhyme time with our buses on the carpet.

In Phonics the children learnt the 'g' sound and words beginning with 'g', such as, goat, goose, gorilla, glue and glasses. The children really impressed me with how doggedly determined they were to have a go at writing the letter 'g', with some really fantastic results.

In Maths the children learnt about number one, how to show one on fingers, how to write it and how to describe one item in a simple number sentence, for example', Zayan said "there is one lego block". The children also used their knowledge of shapes to talk about and then draw a bus. We realised that we could use a rectangle for the main bus shape, two circles for wheels and then squares or rectangles for the windows.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JANUARY

Monday 20th

**Tuition:** Catch Up Clubs - invited pupils only from 3.15pm - 4.15pm  
**Tuition:** Year 6 Action Tuition begins from 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday 21st

**Trip:** Selected SEND pupils from Years 3, 4 & 5 attend Indoor Athletics at Talacre Sports Centre from 9.15am - 12.30pm  
**Tuition:** Year 5 Richard Reeves from 3.15pm - 4.15pm  
**After School Clubs:** KS1 Cooking (Group 1) from 3.15pm - 4.45pm & Years 4, 5 & 6 Arts and Crafts from 3.15pm - 4.15pm.

Wednesday 22nd

**Tuition:** Year 5 Action Tuition begins from 3.30pm - 4.30pm  
**After School Clubs:** Years 1, 2 & 3 Football from 3.15pm - 4.15pm.  
**Trip:** Selected pupils from Year 3 attend Dodgeball Competition at Talacre Sports Centre from 3pm - 6.30pm

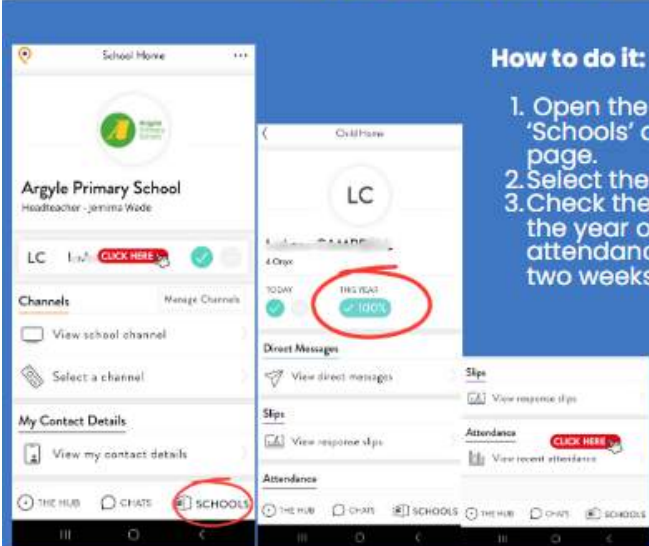
Thursday 23rd

**Event:** Year 5 Class Assembly - Parents invited - at 8.55am  
**Tuition:** Year 6 Richard Reeves from 3.15pm - 4.15pm  
**After School Clubs:** KS2 Cooking (Group 1) from 3.15pm - 4.45pm & Years 1, 2 & 3 Arts and Crafts from 3.15pm - 4.15pm.

Friday 24th

**Event:** Coffee Morning from 8.50am - 9.50am in FLC  
**After School Clubs:** Years 4, 5 & 6 Football from 3.15pm - 4.15pm

### Keep an eye on your child's attendance via ParentHub!



**How to do it:**

1. Open the App, click on 'Schools' at the bottom of the page.
2. Select the name of your child.
3. Check their attendance for the year or click on attendance to see the last two weeks of attendance.

be in school . . .  
**ON TIME**  
all day  
**EVERY DAY**

# Attendance & Punctuality



Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rec: Jet	84	94					
1 Jade	89	90					
1 Ruby	97	92					
2 Amber	98	98					
2 Opal	94	98					
3 Garnet	90	92					
3 Pearl	92	98					
4 Emerald	98	96					
4 Onyx	90	94					
5 Amethyst	92	97					
6 Sapphire	93	93					
Total	91	95					
Camden	94						

Well done to **2 Amber, 2 Opal, 3 Pearl, 4 Emerald and 5 Amethyst** for attaining or exceeding the target of **96%** attendance this week.

## Attendance Matters!

Every Monday, Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Service shares attendance data for Years 1-6. Last week, while overall primary attendance saw a dip, despite this, among 21 primary schools in Camden, we tied for 8th with two other schools that met or exceeded the borough average of 94.4%.

Let's keep aiming high and work together to reach our target of 96%! Every day counts!

## Punctuality

This week **55** of sessions in the registers were marked as 'L' (Late).

Pupils should be in their line at **8.40am**, ready to go up to class and be marked into the register at 8.45am when school begins.

## Reporting Absences

Parents should report any absences to the school office by calling 02078374590 before 9.30am.

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine. A member of staff may call you again to discuss the absence.

Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

**Every School Day Counts**

# LEARN ENGLISH FAST AT ARGYLE

EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
FROM 9AM – 11AM

THIS CLASS IS OPEN TO ALL ADULT STUDENTS OF ALL LEVELS. YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ENGLISH FAST AT ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH OTHER STUDENTS.

WE WILL GO ON TRIPS TO LOCAL SITES AND LEARN EVERYDAY VOCABULARY.

WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON SPOKEN ENGLISH, ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION, READING AND WRITING.

WE WILL COVER WHAT STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN!

Come and see Belinda in the Family Learning Centre  
at Argyle Primary School to register



BELINDA DRAKE IS A LECTURER EMPLOYED BY WESTMINSTER KINGSWAY COLLEGE



## EMOTION COACHING WORKSHOP

Camden Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are excited to be offering a **2-part, face-to-face workshop** for parents and carers of primary age children (4-11 years) on:

**Dates: Wednesday 5th February and Wednesday 12th February 2024 (12:00–2:00pm)**

**Location: Regents Park Children's Centre, Augustus St, London NW1 3TJ**

The workshop will explore Emotion Coaching, a parenting approach that supports identifying and validating emotions, while also setting boundaries and limits around behaviour.

How will Emotion Coaching help you and your child?

- To better understand and validate your child's emotions
- To respond more helpfully during moments of heightened emotion
- To implement appropriate boundary setting
- To reduce behaviours that you find challenging
- To further improve the parent/child relationship
- To learn from other parents and carers



This is an interactive workshop, which will involve sharing research, learning about Emotion Coaching and practising strategies. We often find that group workshops are a great space to learn from each other so there will be lots of opportunities to talk about ideas and to think through any challenges that might be around.

Please use the QR code or link below to sign up; this workshop is in two parts so you will need to be able to attend on both dates.